

Appl. No. : 10/690,833
Filed : October 22, 2003

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the June 28, 2006 Office Action. Claims 1-22 remain pending in the present application.

In response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2006, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the following comments.

Results of Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Elve for extending the courtesy of conducting a telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives, Bruce S. Itchkawitz and David A. Petrini on October 3, 2006. During the telephonic interview, Applicants' representatives cited pertinent paragraphs in the specification supporting the claim amendments made in the previously-filed Amendment and Response to Office Action on June 15, 2006 including, but not limited to paragraphs 0078 to 0083 in the published application. The Examiner agreed to review the claims as amended and subject them to further searching.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-22 Under 35 § 103(a)

In the June 28, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-22 under 35 § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,979,515 issued to Uraki *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,507,000 issued to Otsubo *et al.* The Examiner stated that the amendments filed on June 15, 2006 in the "Amendment and Response to January 10, 2006 Final Office Action and April 4, 2006 Advisory Action" introduced new matter, and were not considered.

Applicants submit that the earlier amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. For at least the reasons stated in the "Amendment and response to January 10, 2006 Final Office Action and April 4, 2006 Advisory Action," Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references cited in the June 28, 2006 Office Action do not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of the amended claims, either alone or taken together. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims and pass them to allowance.

SUMMARY

For the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw and the rejection of the claims and pass Claims 1-22 to allowance.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections and objections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance.

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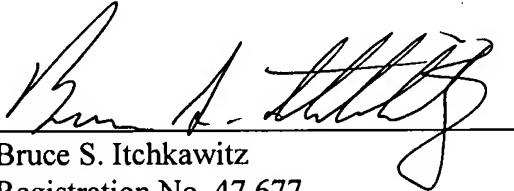
Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 10/24/06

By: 
Bruce S. Itchkawitz
Registration No. 47,677
Attorney of Record
2040 Main St.
Fourteenth Floor
Irvine, CA 92614
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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